Association between Personality Factors and Self-Concept among Homeless Individuals of Punjab, Pakistan

Nazia Yaqoob
MS Scholor
Department of Applied Psychology, Government College University, Faisalabad. PAKISTAN.
N_yaqoob_3@yahoo.com.sg

Shazia Habib
Lecturer
Department of Applied Psychology, Government College University, Faisalabad. PAKISTAN.
Shaziahabib75@hotmail.com

Syed Muhammad Imran Haider Zaidi
Lecturer
Department of Psychology, Government Municipal Degree College, Faisalabad. PAKISTAN.
Imran_zaidi_1@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

The current research focused on exploring the association between personality factors and self-concept among homeless individuals. Total participants (N=50) homeless individuals were selected from shelter homes of different cities of Punjab, Pakistan. Adjective Check List Urdu (Fay, Sechrest, & Zaaidi, 1972) and Urdu Adjective Check List (Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, & Yasmin, 1982) were used to measure the variables of Personality Factors and Self-Concept respectively. Pearson Product Moment Correlation and t-test were used for statistical analysis. Results indicate a significant positive correlation (r = .69**, p<0.01) between Personality Factors and Self-Concept among homeless individuals. Repercussions of these findings and suggestions for upcoming researches are furthermore discussed.

Key Words: Self-concept; Personality factors; correlation; homeless;Pakistan

Introduction

The current research focuses on finding out the relationship between personality factors and self-concept among homeless individuals. Personality factors are dimension of personality in which a person behaves in a particular situation. It can also be defined by a trend or fashion in which individuals behaves. On the other hand self concept is an individual's perception about him/herself. We can say that an individual's self-concept is conceived as that individual's summary formulation of his or her status. This perception can be either positive/high or negative/low. The current research was an attempt to recognize the homeless people as individuals in crisis rather than stereotypes and like others they also deserve to be treated with dignity and respect. Homelessness is one of the crucial issues not only in west but now in Pakistan as well. Various studies suggested that the primary cause of individuals homelessness is family dysfunction in the form of parental neglect, parental marital conflicts, physical or sexual

abuse, family substance abuse and family violence (Tyler, 2006). Homelessness life exposes them to additional risks or victimization. For instance majority of boys indulge in delinquent activities and addiction. Girls mostly rapped and in some cases they are forced to live in red light areas.

Furthermore it is imperative to investigate the relationship between personality factors and self-concept in runaway and homeless individuals as these constructs play an essential role in person's preferences. Adolescence is the age when personality is fully developed and self-concept has emerged. This age group is the initial stage after developing these constructs. Measures in this particular age group might grant pure nature of self-concept and personality factors. Further measures in this age group can help to forecast an individual's future behavior.

Personality is defined as a dynamic organization inside human being of those psychophysical systems that settle on his/her exclusive regulation to the surroundings (Allport, 1937).

"Personality is the total psychological society of a human being at whichever phase of his growth. It embraces each stage of individual character: intellect, temperament, skill, morality, and every outlook behavior that has been built up in the route of one's existence"(Carmichael & Warren, 1930).

(In an acknowledged overstatement…)"Personality is the embodiment of a human being" (Hall & Lindzey, 1957).

"An individual's sketch of mental processes arise commencing motives, feelings, thoughts, and other for the most part important areas of psychological task. Personality is articulated from side to side its influences on the body, in attentive intellectual life, and all the way through the individual's societal performance" (Mayer, 2005).

Personality factors are also called personality traits. Schultz (2001) described trait as a property or quality of individual, which is contingent from that person's behavior. "A relatively enduring character of an individual which is contingent forms behavior". He also described "state" is a temporary condition within an individual such as anger, stress.

Number of personality assessment measures are there being used word wide. To measure Personality Factors the most widely used measure is NEO Personality Inventory Revised (NEO-PI-R) in these days. Different indigenous scales have been developed world wide. In Pakistan Adjective Checklist Urdu is developed on the basis of NEO-PI-R.

Self-Concept

The expression self-concept is a universal term used to pass on to how someone thinks about, evaluates or perceives themselves. To be sentient of oneself is to have a concept of oneself. According to Baumeister (1995) "the individual's conviction about himself or herself, counting the person's attributes and who and what the self is".

One-dimensional construct of self-concept is strictly rejected by most of the researchers due to its inadequate explanation of behavior in a wide range of settings. Researchers suggested that self-concept is a multi-dimensional construct and they warned against generalizing the term. It is

affirmed "self-concept be supposed to not be conceptualized seeing that a simple, unitary observable fact, other than a multifaceted construct having expressive, evaluative, relative, and sentimental aspects which can and be supposed to be discriminated"(Kraut & Schierer, 1979).

A person's self-concept is developed early in life and affects his functions in the environment. Child's self-concept is developed through this thought that what are the feelings of the people about him who are important in his life.

Dimensions of self-concept: A person's thinking about himself affects his behavior to a great degree. A positive view of self makes one confident giving him high self-esteem which results in a positive self-concept. Positive self-concepts make him feel capable and competent. His actions demonstrate those feelings, and others react positively to his actions, which, in turn, validate those feelings. These conditions are promoted in individuals' security and self-confidence which result in a well adjusted social behavior. On the other side, low love of self, and lack of positive opinion about self, a lot of criticism and judgment, blaming yourself and having self-doubt contribute to a negative self-concept. In this, the person experiences uncertainty and lack of self-confidence in his capabilities which results in general anxiety in situation. These negative feelings affect his actions and others' reactions, validating negative feelings about self. In these situations, the adolescent's personal and social conduct loses its balance. At each stage of life individuals have to face divergence or crisis. Their dealings with crisis affect their development. A positive dealing leads to positive self-concept while a negative

dealing leads to negative self-concept (Jerajani, 2006).

Both of the constructs personality factors and self-concept play an obvious role in a person's life as Boon, Ghaffar, Ramli, Yahaya, and Zakariya, (2009) identify the relationship between the personality factors and self-concept. While weak relationship was found between the personality factors and self-concept.

The relationship between the personality factors and different self-concept measures were generally small and significant for Extraversion and Conscientiousness (Back, Boris, Egloff, Mitja, Schmukle, & Stefan, 2008).

Amirazodi and Amirazodi (2011) examined the relationship between the personality factors and self-esteem. On the personality factors subscales multiple regression of self-esteem, revealed that the extraversion contrary to introversion, agreeableness contradictory to antagonism, conscientiousness dissimilar to lack of direction and openness in opposition to closeness to experience traits were significant positive predictor and neuroticism in opposition to emotion stability was significant negative interpreter of the self-esteem.

Objectives

Following were the main objectives of the current study.

- To investigate the relationship between Personality Factors and Self-concept in homeless individuals.

- To further facilitate research work in this crucial area in Pakistan

Hypotheses

Following hypothesis was formulated for the present study:

- There is a significant relationship between Personality Factors and Self-Concept in homeless individuals.

Materials and Methods

This section deals with the methods and procedures of the study that was assumed to scrutinize the research problem. The study was designed at examining the connection between personality factors and self-concept in homeless individuals.

Participants

The sample of this study consisted of (N = 50) homeless individuals. The study sample was additionally categorized the same as (n =25 men, n =25 women) between the age assortment of 17 to 25 years. The sample was unruffled from protection homes of Faisalabad and Lahore municipality. Purposive sampling system was used for sample medley. The present study was based on Correlational research design.

Instruments

Following study tools were used in the current research.

Demographic Sheet

Demographic Sheet was designed to explore the demographic information which comprised mainly age, sexual category, schooling, profession, duration of habitation in current association, amount of siblings, marital condition, and reason to be here in this institute.

Self-Concept Scale (Urdu Adjective Check List). Self-concept is one's perception and evaluation about his/her own characteristics, attributes, and abilities, which bear a comparison with others. In the present study the higher scores on self-concept scale would mean higher and positive self-concept of individuals. The scale Urdu Adjective Check List (UACL), also called self-concept scale was originally developed and validated in National Institute of Psychology Quaid-e-Azam University by Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, and Yasmin (1982).

Age range of the current scale is 15 years to onward. It contains negative and positive adjectives with five point rating very much = 5, much = 4, Moderate=3, Less=2, Very less=1 for positive adjectives and reverse for negative adjectives. The scale consists of popular adjectives in Urdu language, which was easily understood by the general population of Pakistan. In this study UACL containing 54 items was used due to its short length and easy availability. A total score on the scale can also be calculated. The maximum score on this scale was 270 and minimum score was 54.

Adjective Check List (Urdu): Adjective Check List (ACL) developed by Fay, Sechrest, and Zaaidi (1972) was used in current study to measure Personality factors. This scale is valid for the individuals above 16 years old. These personality factors comprised of Neuroticism, Extraversion, Openness, Agreebleness and Conscientiousness. While the responses are scored on five point Likert type scale. Adjective Check List provides quick

measurement regarding perceptions of one's own self or others. The scale is composed of positive and negative 112 adjectives.

Procedure

In order to assess the relationship between personality factors and self-concept in homeless individuals Adjective Check List (ACL) developed by Fay, Sechrest, and Zaaidi (1972) and Urdu Adjective Check List (UACL) developed by Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, and Yasmin (1982) were used. In current study ACL used to measure Personality factors and UACL used to measure self-concept of the individuals. Both of the instruments were in Urdu language.

The sample of the current study was selected from protection homes situated in different cities of Punjab. Data was unruffled from participants in quarters with the agreement of concerned authorities' i.e. resident directors of protection homes. Further the investigator approached respondents in their particular institutions and they were briefed about the function of the study. After obtaining their sanction to contribute in the study they were instructed vocally and in black and white form about how to respond on every study tool as well as about the demographic information. At the next step study instruments (ACL & UACL) were administered on the research participants as a group paperwork. Participants were also assured that whatever information collected from them will be kept off the record.

Statistics

In order to analyze the data Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) (Version 16.0) was used in current study. In the current research Pearson Product Moment Correlation was used to discover the association between Personality Factors and Self-concept in homeless individuals.

Results and Discussion

The existing research was paying attention on verdict the connection between Personality Factors and Self-concept among homeless individuals. Illustration of individuals *(N=50)* homeless were elected from dissimilar protection homes of Faisalabad and Lahore. Adjective Check List (Fay, Sechrest, and Zaaidi 1972) developed on five dimensions of Big Five Model and Urdu Adjective Check List (Ansari, Farooqi, Khan, & Yasmin, 1982) was used to quantify Personality Factors and self-concept correspondingly. Pearson Product Moment Co-efficient of Correlation was second-hand for statistical analysis. The results acquired from data are portrayed as follows.

Table 1 *Correlation between Personality Factors and Self-Concept in Homeless (n=50) individuals.*

	Personality Factors	*P*
Self-Concept	.69**	.000

Correlation is significant at the 0.01**

This hypothesis was tested by using Pearson Product Moment Correlation to find out the relationship between Personality Factors and Self-Concept among homeless individuals. The results are given in Table 1.

The above table shows that Correlation is significant at α (0.01) level which revealed that Personality Factors have strong positive correlation with Self-Concept among homeless individuals.

Housing plays a pivotal role in the well-being of children and families. Stable housing is a critical factor for positive child and youth development. Unfortunately, the number of homeless families with children has increased in recent years due to the lack of affordable housing. On top of that, the current economic recession and the housing crisis further increase the likelihood of homelessness among children and youth (Bratt, 2002).

A paper illustrated some of the ways in which the perceived pathways into homelessness are socially structured. They examined the relative frequency of 11 different reasons homeless males and females cite for being homeless. Males were more likely to cite the following as their main reasons for homelessness: loss of a job, discharge from an institution, mental health problems, and alcohol or drug problems. Women were more likely to cite the following as their main reason for homelessness: eviction, interpersonal conflict, and someone no longer able or willing to help. Self-reported reasons for being homeless are also related to age, marital status, race, and being a veteran. As expected, they are also linked to receptiveness to treatment. Gender differences in reasons for homelessness may require different approaches to building

helping relationships with homeless men and women (Gamache et al., 2001).

Personality factors often linked with academic achievement. It is also measured as a predictor of performance in high school (Flier & Kappe, 2010). Individuals who were extroverted, agreeable, conscientious, and neurotic tend to be extrinsically motivated (Clark & Schroth 2010).

Individual's personality factors remain stable. Big-Five personality factors are stable for working-age adults over a four-year period. Intra-individual changes were generally not linked to unfavorable life events and are not economically meaningful (Cobb-Clark & Schurer, 2012). Personality Factors determines individual's responses and future behavior.

Relationship between the personality factors and different self-concept measures were generally small and significant for Extraversion and Conscientiousness (Back et al., 2008). Self-concept is significantly related with two subscales of Personality factors according to this literature. Self-concept could be construed as personality characteristics. Findings indicated that self-concept was a personality characteristic in adolescent population (Cole & Cole, 1993). Personality factors are the collection of personality characteristics. That's why personality factors and self-concept are related. Both of the constructs play an obvious role in a person's life. Both of these constructs are related (Boon et al., 2009).

Individuals with positive self-concept perform well in their personal and professional life as proved by the literature above. In a study relationship between marital adjustment and Personality Factors

investigated in working women in Pakistani scenario. The results showed considerable positive relationships among the variable of Extraversion, Agreeableness and Conscientiousness with Marital Adjustment. Neuroticism was considerably negatively associated to Marital Adjustment while Openness had an insignificant relationship with Marital Adjustment (Ansari, 2003). All these studies support the results of the hypothesis which claimed a relationship between Self-Concept and Personality Factors.

Conclusion

Current research was conceded to discover the connection between personality factors and self-concept among homeless individuals in different cities of Punjab. Results indicate a significant positive correlation in personality factors and self-concept among homeless individuals. This populace requests therapeutic interventions for their emotional and expressive troubles. Parents should bestow qualitative time to their offspring to build up wisdom of accurate and erroneous. Family unit affairs supposed to strapping to develop constructive self concept. Lack of self-confidence is essentially originated from ancestors; it should be steer clear of. Upbringing of relatives should be bendable. Ethical maturity would help to diminish the add up to on the streets cases.

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Association between Personality Factors and Self-Concept among Homeless Individuals of Punjab, Pakistan by Yaqoob, N., Habib, S., Zaidi, S. M. I. H.